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ness and uncertainty of modern life in various professions, the freedom of women, etc. Fortunately, the reserve of health, strength and ability in the people is still very great; and, fortunately, the tone of public opinion may be changed by the influence and example of those who are awake to the danger. Mr. and Mrs. Whetham accordingly end their work, in a fairly hopeful spirit, with the following appeal: "Encourage in all ways early marriages and large families for men and women of health, strength and ability; discourage both marriage and offspring where either parental stock is unsound in body or mind." The advice is admirably sound, and the hopefulness, in all probability, is not misplaced. For there is nothing that so much strikes the outside observer of recent public opinion in England as the steady progress made, in spite of prudishness and conservatism, by the new creed of eugenics. S. POST.

*The Autobiography, a Critical and Comparative Study*, by A. R. BURR.  
Boston & New York, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1909. pp. viii, 451.  
Price, \$2.00 net.

In this *Journal*, xix, 415, I called attention to the first volume of Professor Misch's *Geschichte der Autobiographie*, a work planned and in part executed with the traditional German thoroughness. Mrs. Burr has, in the volume now before us, treated of the autobiography in lighter vein. Writing on the basis of "two hundred and sixty capital autobiographies," she has produced a very interesting book, literary in flavor, psychological in suggestion, which should do much to arouse her readers to further and more intensive study of a fascinating subject.

Mrs. Burr may be quoted, in large measure, as her own reviewer. "The indication is plain," she writes, "that a subjective trend of thought made its appearance in literature, rather suddenly than slowly, during the first three hundred years of the Christian era. Examination of its early manifestations shows the primal cause to be religious emotion: for the second type of the subjective document—the scientific—did not make its appearance until the sixteenth century [ch. iii, History]. When one turns to the documents themselves, an investigation begins most naturally with a comparison of the reasons for writing them, and of the attitudes they take, with like attitudes in diaries and in letters. . . . Works written according to the autobiographical intention are written 'as if no one in the world were to read them, yet with the purpose of being read' [ch. ii, Classification and the Autobiographical Intention; ch. v, The Autobiography, the Diary, and the Letter]. Conformation to this standard permits us (always within recognized limits) to believe in their sincerity and to trust their information" [ch. iv, Sincerity; ch. ix, the Autobiography in its relation to Fiction]. Julius Cæsar, St. Augustine and Girolamo Cardano are considered as the three great archetypes of autobiography, and the latter's *De vita propria liber* receives a chapter to itself [chs. vi, vii]. After tracing the influence of these models upon later times [ch. viii], the author reaches a formulation of the law of the subjective self-study, which is "that its manifestations invariably precede and accompany movements of intellectual significance; and that, conversely, in times when great warlike activities and political upheavals make their special demand upon the objective energies of a people, the subjective record diminishes in proportion, or wholly disappears from literature" [ch. x]. This same chapter [The Autobiographical Group] also "attempts to give some conception of the part these documents may be permitted to play in sociological and historical investigation."

So far the first and general part of the book. The second and special

part takes up the works selected under various partial and especially suggestive aspects: religion, humor, self-esteem, genius, sex relations, and so forth. Here the author reaches certain conclusions of interest, as that the relation of the sexes to each other has changed less with the centuries than attitudes toward nature or toward society at large; that the prevailing happiness of the intellectual life negates the pathological theories of genius; that the study of religious confession has hitherto been illusory and misleading. The work here is admittedly selective and incomplete; but, again, the reader is pleasantly directed to the original sources. The volume closes with a series of bibliographical appendices.

F. E. BARBOUR.

*Journals of Ralph Waldo Emerson.* With Annotations. Edited by Edward Waldo Emerson and Waldo Emerson Forbes. Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Co. Vol. i, 1820-1824. 1909. Vol. ii, 1824-1832. 1909. pp. xxvii, 394; xvii, 542. Price per vol. \$1.75 net.

As a supplement to the centenary edition of Emerson's works, the publishers have decided to issue an edition of his journals. The first intention was to begin the publication with the year 1833, after Emerson's return from his first visit to Europe; "but, on carefully reading the journals for the fourteen years preceding that time,—for the boy faithfully kept them from the age of seventeen onwards,—it seemed well to the editors to introduce large extracts from these." "The extracts from the early journals are not chosen for their merit alone: they show the soil out of which Emerson grew, the atmosphere around, his habits and mental food, his doubts, his steady, earnest purpose, and the things he outgrew. His frankness with himself is seen, and how he granted the floor to the adversary for a fair hearing." These first volumes cover Emerson's life at college (beginning Feb., 1820; ending June, 1821); his experiences as school teacher and divinity student (1822-1826); the period elapsing between ordination ('approbation to preach') and engagement (end of 1826 to end of 1828); and the ministry of the Second Church of Boston (1829-1832). The Editors have performed their task admirably; and the books themselves, illustrated by photogravure and other plates, and well printed upon a light cream colored paper, do credit to the publishers.

M. W. WISEMAN.

*The Economy and Training of Memory.* By H. J. WATT. New York, Longmans, Green & Co., 1909. pp. viii, 127.

The author of this little book received his experimental training in Külpe's laboratory at Würzburg, and is favorably known by his doctorate thesis ('Experimental Contributions to a Theory of Thought') and by later publications in Meumann's *Archiv*. He has here attempted to make accessible to students and teachers the most valuable of the experimental results obtained during the past quarter century in the study of memory and related subjects. After a general introduction, he discusses the experimental investigation of memory, some general questions (child and adult, memory and intelligence, etc.), the factors which influence memory, mental imagery, thoughts, and rules for the economy and training of memory. The work is simply written, and the conclusions and recommendations are in general sound. If criticism has anything to remark, it is that the author betrays an occasional tendency to generalize and deduce beyond the limits of his experimental data. In this respect, his book is inferior to that of Offner (*Das Gedächtnis*: see this *Journal*, xx, 1909, 457). J. FITZ.